

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing speech quality transmitted via a packet based telecommunications network comprising the steps of:
 - storing a sequence of intercepted packets associated with a call, each packet containing
 - speech data, and
 - an indication of a transmission time of said intercepted packet;
 - storing with each intercepted packet an indication of an intercept time of said intercepted packet;
 - extracting a set of parameters from said sequence of intercepted packets; and
 - generating an estimated mean opinion score in dependence upon said set of parameters; and
 - storing said estimated mean opinion score on a computer-readable medium accessible by a user for visualization and analysis,
- wherein the extracting step comprises the sub steps of:
- generating a jitter parameter for each packet of said sequence of stored packets in dependence upon
 - a difference between the transmission time of a stored packet and the transmission time of a preceding stored packet of the sequence; and
 - a difference between the intercept time of said stored packet and the intercept time of said preceding stored packet; and
 - generating a consecutive positive jitter parameter for said stored packet in dependence upon a polarity of said jitter parameter for said stored packet and a polarity of said jitter parameter for immediately preceding stored packets
- wherein the consecutive positive jitter parameter defines the number of

immediately preceding stored packets which have been ~~received~~received consecutively, for each of which a polarity of the jitter parameter is positive.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the extracting step further comprises the sub steps of:

- generating a plurality of consecutive positive jitter parameters for a plurality of said stored packets;
- determining a maximum value of said plurality of said consecutive jitter parameters.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the extracting step further comprises the sub steps of:

- generating a plurality of consecutive positive jitter parameters for a plurality of said stored packets;
- determining a variance value of said plurality of said consecutive jitter parameters.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 in which the extracting step further comprises the sub steps of:

- generating a plurality of maximum values for a plurality of sub-sequences of said stored packets;
- determining an average for a sequence of said maximum values.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 in which the extracting step further comprises the sub steps of:

- generating a plurality of variance values for a plurality of sub-sequences of said stored packets;
- determining an average for a sequence of said variance values.

Claims 6-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for assessing speech quality transmitted via a packet based telecommunications network comprising:

means for capturing and storing a sequence of intercepted packets associated with a call, each packet containing

speech data, and

an indication of a transmission time of said intercepted packet;

means for storing with each intercepted packet an indication of an intercept time of said intercepted packet;

means for extracting a set of parameters from said sequence of intercepted packets; and

means for generating an estimated mean opinion score in dependence upon said set of parameters; and

means for storing said estimated mean opinion score on a computer-readable medium accessible by a user for visualization and analysis.

wherein the means for extracting comprises:

means for generating a jitter parameter for each packet of said sequence of stored packets in dependence upon

a difference between the transmission time of a stored packet and the transmission time of a preceding stored packet of the sequence; and

a difference between the intercept time of said stored packet and the intercept time of said preceding stored packet; and

means for generating a consecutive positive jitter parameter for said stored packet in dependence upon a polarity of said jitter parameter for said stored packet and a polarity of said jitter parameter for immediately preceding stored packets wherein the consecutive positive jitter parameter defines the number of immediately preceding stored packets which have been received consecutively, for each of which a polarity of the jitter parameter is positive.

10. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said consecutive positive jitter parameter is returned to a value of zero upon receipt of a packet having a non-positive jitter value.

11. (New) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said apparatus further comprises means for returning said consecutive positive jitter parameter to a value of zero upon receipt of a packet having a non-positive jitter value.